

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. – 43. (Canceled)

44. (New) A method for identifying a compound that modulates untranslated region (UTR)-dependent expression of human vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) protein and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA, said method comprising:

- (a) contacting a compound with a human cell engineered to express a reporter protein encoded by a reporter mRNA operably linked to a 5' UTR and a 3' UTR of the human VEGF mRNA; and
- (b) detecting the level of the reporter protein expressed, wherein an alteration in the level of the reporter protein expressed in the presence of a compound compared to the level of the reporter protein expressed in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control indicates that the compound modulates UTR-dependent expression of human VEGF protein and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA.

45. (New) A method for identifying a compound that modulates UTR-dependent expression of human VEGF protein and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA, said method comprising:

- (a) contacting a compound with a cell-free translation mixture expressing a reporter protein encoded by a reporter mRNA operably linked to a 5' UTR and a 3' UTR of the human VEGF mRNA; and
- (b) detecting the level of the reporter protein expressed, wherein an alteration in the level of the reporter protein expressed in the presence of a compound compared to the level of the reporter protein expressed in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control indicates that the compound modulates UTR-dependent expression of

human VEGF protein and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA.

46. (New) A method for identifying a compound that specifically modulates UTR-dependent expression of human VEGF protein and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA, said method comprising:

- (a) contacting a compound with a first human cell engineered to express a first reporter protein encoded by a first reporter mRNA operably linked to a 5' UTR and a 3' UTR of the human VEGF mRNA;
- (b) contacting the compound with a second human cell engineered to express a second reporter protein encoded by a second reporter mRNA operably linked to a 5' UTR and a 3' UTR of a mRNA other than the human VEGF mRNA; and
- (c) detecting the level of expression of the first and second reporter proteins, wherein a compound that specifically modulates UTR-dependent expression of human VEGF protein and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA is identified if the level of expression of the first reporter protein in the presence of the compound is altered relative to the level of expression of the first reporter protein in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control, and the level of expression of the second reporter protein in the presence of the compound is not altered or not substantially altered relative to the level of expression of the second reporter protein in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control.

47. (New) A method for identifying a compound that specifically modulates UTR-dependent expression of human VEGF protein and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA, said method comprising:

- (a) contacting a compound with a first human cell engineered to express a first reporter protein encoded by a first reporter mRNA operably linked to a 5' UTR and a 3' UTR of the human VEGF mRNA;
- (b) contacting the compound with a panel of human cells, wherein each human cell in the panel is isolated from each other and each human cell is engineered to express a reporter protein encoded by a reporter mRNA operably linked to a 5' UTR and a 3' UTR of a mRNA other than the human VEGF mRNA; and
- (c) detecting the level of expression of the first reporter protein and each isolated reporter protein in the panel, wherein a compound that specifically modulates UTR-dependent expression of human VEGF protein and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA is identified if the level of expression of the first reporter protein by the first human cell in the presence of the compound is altered relative to the level of expression of the first reporter protein by the first human cell in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control, and the level of expression of each isolated reporter protein in the panel in the presence of the compound is not altered or not substantially altered relative to the level of expression of each isolated reporter protein in the panel in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control.

48. (New) A method for identifying a compound that specifically modulates UTR-dependent expression of human VEGF protein and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA, said method comprising:

- (a) contacting a compound with a cell-free translation mixture expressing a first reporter protein encoded by a first reporter mRNA operably linked to a 5' UTR and a 3' UTR of the human VEGF mRNA;
- (b) contacting the compound with a cell-free translation mixture expressing a second reporter protein encoded by a second reporter mRNA operably linked to a 5' UTR and a 3' UTR of a mRNA other than the human VEGF mRNA; and
- (c) detecting the level of expression of the first and second reporter proteins, wherein a compound that specifically modulates UTR-dependent expression of the human VEGF protein and disrupts an interaction between the 5' UTR and the 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA is identified if the level of expression of the first reporter protein in the presence of the compound is altered relative to the level of expression of the first reporter protein in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control, and the level of expression of the second reporter protein in the presence of the compound is not altered or not substantially altered relative to the level of expression of the second reporter protein in the absence of the compound or the presence of a negative control.

49. (New) The method of claim 44 or 45, wherein the compound does not alter VEGF mRNA levels.

50. (New) The method of claim 44 or 45, wherein the 5' UTR is operably linked upstream of the reporter mRNA encoding the reporter protein.

51. (New) The method of claim 44 or 45, wherein the 3' UTR is operably linked downstream of the reporter mRNA encoding the reporter protein.

52. (New) The method of claim 44 or 45, wherein the reporter protein is firefly luciferase, renilla luciferase, click beetle luciferase, green fluorescent protein, yellow

fluorescent protein, red fluorescent protein, cyan fluorescent protein, blue fluorescent protein, beta-galactosidase, beta-glucoronidase, beta-lactamase, chloramphenicol acetyltransferase, or alkaline phosphatase.

53. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the human cell is engineered to stably express the reporter protein.

54. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the human cell is engineered to transiently express the reporter protein.

55. (New) The method of claim 44 or 45 further comprising measuring the effect of the compound on the level of expression of the human VEGF protein.

56. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the human cell is a HeLa cell or a 293 cell.

57. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the cell-free translation mixture is a cell extract derived from a human cell, a yeast cell, a mouse cell, a rat cell, a Chinese hamster ovary ("CHO") cell, a Xenopus oocyte, a primary cell, an undifferentiated cancer cell, or a rye embryo.

58. (New) The method of claim 44, 45, 46, 47 or 48, wherein the 5' UTR of the human VEGF mRNA is encoded by a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:17.

59. (New) The method of claim 44, 45, 46, 47 or 48, wherein the 3' UTR of the human VEGF mRNA is encoded by a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:18.

60. (New) The method of claim 44, 45, 46, 47 or 48, wherein the 5' UTR of the human VEGF mRNA is the full-length 5' UTR of human VEGF mRNA and the 3' UTR of the human VEGF mRNA is the full-length 3' UTR of human VEGF mRNA.

61. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the reporter protein is firefly luciferase, renilla luciferase, click beetle luciferase, green fluorescent protein, yellow fluorescent protein, red fluorescent protein, cyan fluorescent protein, blue fluorescent protein,

beta-galactosidase, beta-glucoronidase, beta-lactamase, chloramphenicol acetyltransferase, or alkaline phosphatase.

62. (New) The method of claim 44 or 45 further comprising (c) determining the structure of the compound.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the structure of the compound is determined by mass spectroscopy, NMR, vibrational spectroscopy, or X-ray crystallography.

64. (New) The method of claim 44 or 45, wherein the alteration in the level of the reporter protein expressed is detected by measuring the activity of the reporter protein.

65. (New) The method of claim 44 or 45, wherein the alteration in the level of the reporter protein expressed is detected by measuring the amount of the reporter protein.